

In the Specification

Please substitute the following amended paragraph number 46 for the originally-filed paragraph number 46.

- [46] The system and method of the present invention replicate on an as-needed basis server-side state data among collaborating Web servers which are utilizing independent state repositories. Before discussing the preferred embodiment of the present invention, however, reference is first made to an alternative inventive approach, which is the subject of co-pending application serial number 09/710,728, filed November 10, 2000, and assigned to the assignee of the present invention (issued as U.S. Patent 6,845,390, on January 18, 2005). In this alternative inventive approach, the server-side state data to be shared is organized into state objects, where each state object is a unit of state data replicated atomically and independently of the other state objects. With reference to this alternative inventive approach, and for terminology consistency with the co-pending application, a collaborating Web server that writes (creates, modifies, or deletes) a state object is referred to as a “subject,” while a collaborating Web server that reads a state object is referred to as an “observer.” It should be noted that a same collaborating Web server may be a subject with respect to one state object and an observer with respect to a different state object. Furthermore, in some embodiments, the same collaborating Web server may be a subject with respect to a state object at one point in time and an observer of that same state object at a different point in time.

Please substitute the following amended paragraph number 97 for the originally-filed paragraph number 97.

[97] Having described one alternative inventive approach to maintaining consistent server-side state across a pool of collaborating Web servers (where such approach is the subject of co-pending application serial number 09/710,728, filed November 10, 2000 - issued as U.S. Patent 6,845,390, on January 18, 2005), reference is now made to the preferred inventive approach of the present invention. In this regard, the above-described alternative approach may be summarized as operating by decomposing state that is to be kept in common into state objects. Then, through HTTP cookies (or other appropriate client-side state mechanisms), signals are propagated which track when each of the state objects has been updated on subject servers, allowing observer servers to copy the new state objects into place. When aware that a change has been made to a state object, the server(s) may evaluate the new state object to ascertain "what" change has been made. While this approach effectively synchronizes server-side state information, additional information may be desired, particularly on more complex or robust systems.